



**"If you educate a woman, you educate a family"**

**Class picture of the girls of F07 – Hanna Habib**

*The first graders were excited and happy to see us during their first term at school.*

Dear Donors and Supporters,

Happy Holidays! The Springboard team had a very exciting summer this year filled with success stories, joyful events and non-stop action. We and the Apache wives have successfully managed to collaborate and write a cookbook in an attempt to raise funds for the girls' schools. Springboard also raised funds by teaming up with Apache's wellness program and organizing a Fun, Run, Walk day for the Apache employees. Maintenance services were provided to 51 schools during 2012 and the process is ongoing.

We are very keen on maintaining an environment that fosters innovation and enthusiasm for the girls. We are also keen on constantly engaging and involving our donors and supporters, who, without their dedication and generous contributions, we couldn't have had as successful of a year as we did. And for this, we and the girls are truly grateful.

Wishing you a very merry Christmas and a happy new year!

**“The cookbook comes to life.....”**



**Springboard and the Apache wives held a garden tea party on November 12 to celebrate the reveal of our "Reading, Writing and Recipes" cookbook designed to benefit the One-Room Schools project for Egypt's girls.**

**On the cookbook project, Stacey Townson Ross, one of the ladies in the cookbook committee, writes:**

“When I arrived in Cairo in September 2011, I was looking for an activity that would keep me busy and meet new people. The Cookbook project already existed, in essence, and the committee had evolved through the arrival and departures of its members over a year or two. It had reached the stage where it was ready to become a tangible product, rather than wishful thinking. I was able to lend my time and abilities to begin the long process of formatting and layout.

A year in production, we now have a quality product that I hope will encourage additional financial support through fundraising initiatives for Springboard Education's One Room Schools for Egypt's Girls. Personally, it is very gratifying to know that a little time and effort has the ability to make a real difference in

providing supplies and educational tools to promote learning for Egyptian girls that would not have the opportunity otherwise. Thank you to all the inspired committee members and contributors that came before me, for the catalyst to "Reading, Writing & Recipes." We hope you find the cookbook helpful as well as entertaining. Bon Appetite!"

**As we approach the festive season, you may want to purchase cookbooks as gifts for friends and family.** If you are in Egypt and you wish to order cookbooks to raise funds for the girls' schools, please send us an email on [springboardschools@apachecorp.com](mailto:springboardschools@apachecorp.com). For our friends in Houston, you'll find cookbooks available at the Apache Houston office for pick up.

## Ongoing Maintenance Services at Schools



The Springboard team has successfully provided maintenance services to 203 schools since the start of the project so far, meaning that all of the schools have been maintained at least once over the project's lifetime. The majority of the repairs are due to wear and tear with no vital damages to the schools. The sustainability of the schools is ensured by our commitment to visit the schools on a regular basis. This is also motivated by the positive and

healthy maintenance culture that the students and their teachers help promote. They are keen on preserving the cleanliness and tidiness of their schools by sweeping the classroom and by showing good behaviors and caring like avoiding vandalism, breaking the windows while playing and making sure that trash or garbage is put in the proper disposal place.

## Apache's Fun, Run, Walk Day



Springboard and Apache's Wellness Program teamed up and held their first Fun, Run, Walk event on November 8 in Wadi Degla Preserve. The aim was to promote exercise and healthy lifestyles among our employees as well as raising funds for the girls' schools project. Participants were asked to walk 5km, run 5km, or run 10km according to their preference, as well as get a sponsor/ donor. 23 participants joined the race and successfully helped raise an amount of 1,792.5 USD.

We would like to express our gratitude and sincere thanks to all who participated, donated and volunteered in this event. You're drawing a smile on the school girls' faces!

# The Man behind the Scenes!



**Youssef Youssef**  
Schools Project Supervisor

“I joined Apache in November 2005 as a project engineer to supervise the construction of the schools. When I joined Apache, only 9 schools were built and there were a number of schools that were under construction.

At the beginning, it was just a job for me. I was only keen on finishing this

batch of schools and moving on to the next one in order to meet the tight schedule of finishing 200 schools by the end of 2006, which means 13 months of very hard work. For a while, I was only concerned with the construction of the schools and finishing them, then hand them over and move on to another batch. This continued to be the case till the day I visited a school after it began operating.

This visit completely changed my perspective of the job and of the project. On that day, I visited a school that had just started operating followed by a school that had been operating for approximately 2 months. The difference was unimaginable, and still is. I really understood how these schools are affecting and positively changing the lives of the girls that attend, the community they are in, and the country as a whole. Since that day, I began viewing this project in a different way. I felt that it is not a coincidence that I am working on this project so I decided that my input will not be the input of any other engineer in my position. I have to give more to this project.



Throughout our construction process, through interaction with the communities, we learned to improve our support. We started to add fixtures to the schools to make them even more durable. For example, while we were building we added stone cladding to all of the unfinished schools. We also changed the outside light fixtures that despite their great look and importance to the design they were not durable. Currently, we are adding more enhancements such as window screens and protection steel for all the windows. To prevent damage to the interior paint on the walls, we installed wooden bars to hang artwork and other school teaching aids. Additionally, there are always minor touchups and repairs from just normal wear and tear. I believe that as we go on in this process we will discover more and more issues that need to be addressed and modified in the schools to continually improve the learning environment for the girls.

I believe that the phase we are in is even more difficult than the construction phase. It requires us to maintain our sense of urgency because the efforts in this phase require many other obligations, including motivation of teachers and students to keep the schools at their best. The challenges of maintaining the schools and teaching the teachers and the girls how to take care of the schools and to have pride in their accomplishments is crucial to keep the schools at high standards for the area.

Today, after 7 years working on this project, more than 10,000 girls received education. A lot of areas in the three governorates were developed on the construction and infrastructure levels as well as the humanitarian level. More villages are now able to enjoy electricity and fresh water because of the schools and I have seen places in Egypt that I have never been to before. I am and will always be proud that I was part of this project.”



**The Springboard Schools Team**



**Girls of M05-Gabal El Teir Bahary School, Minya.**





### Our Contacts:

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Dear Donor and Supporter,

Thanks to your generous support and contribution, the girls are capable of receiving their right to free education. You have given them a chance to build up their character through proper education in a healthy environment and to lead better lives.

In order for our schools to continually raise educational standards, their maintenance, safety and sustainability have to be ensured. The healthy environment they offer can be sustained through providing building maintenance, educational supplies, achievement awards, fences, water wells, educational trips, minor medical needs (hearing aids, glasses, etc.).

The financial support you provide is used to resolve logistical needs and problems like flooring issues, septic system blockages, issues with the walls and electric repairs. These issues need to be handled properly to avoid any negative effects on the schools and the students' academic performance. We are asking you to renew your confidence by continuing to support this project and help us create a better atmosphere for the girls to learn. Your contribution can and does make a difference in the lives of these young girls!

Tax deductible contributions can be made to Springboard

You can send a check to:  
Springboard – Educating the Future  
2000, Post Oak Blvd, Suite 100  
Houston, Texas 77056. USA.

The underprivileged girls of Egypt thank you for your support and for enabling their dreams to become reality.

The Springboard Schools Team



*"To teach a man is to teach one person. To teach a woman is to teach everyone."  
Chinese Proverb*



\*Special thanks to Springboard's Egyptian partner: The Ministry of Education